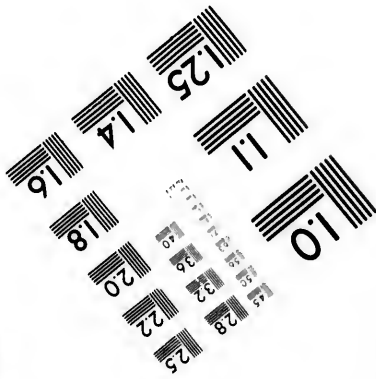
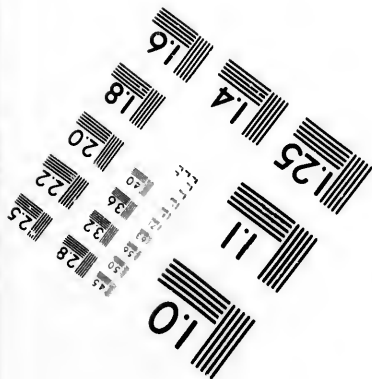
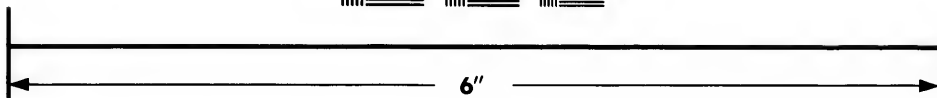
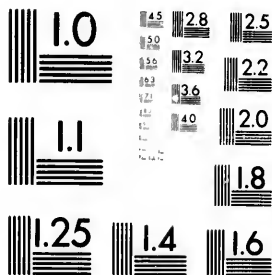


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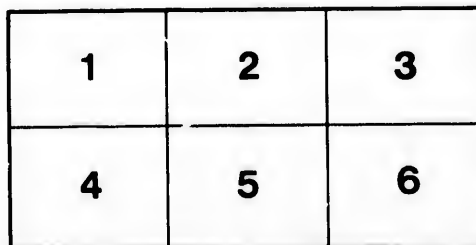
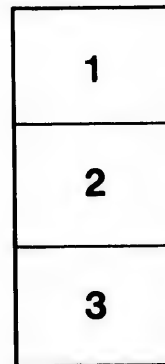
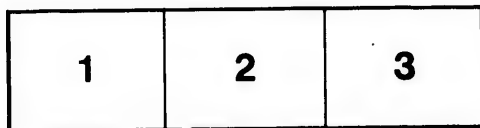
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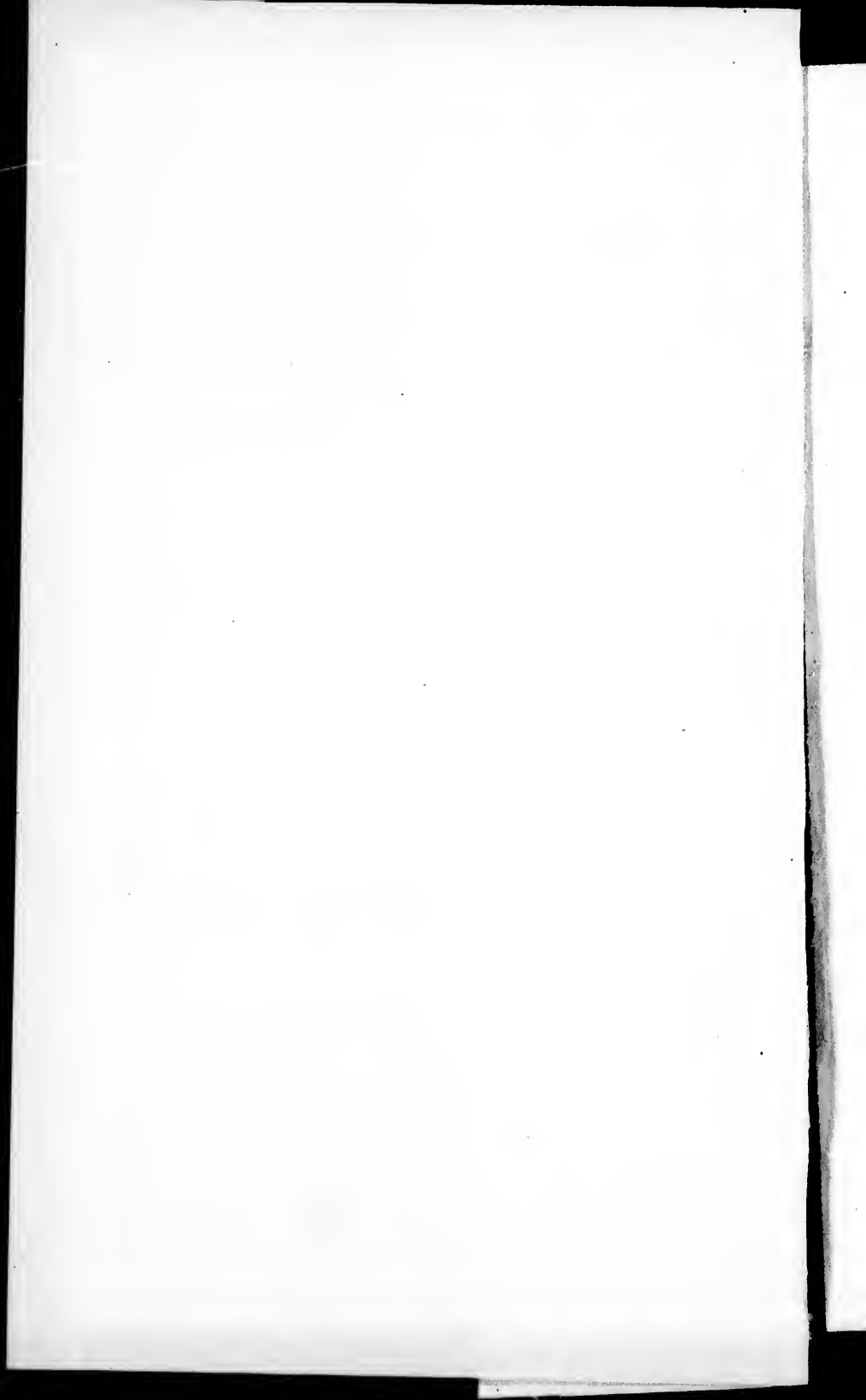
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THE LATE SENATOR TASSE.

By Henry J. Morgan.

Ottawa Citizen, January 18th, 1895

It is with no ordinary feelings of regret that we have to announce this morning the death of our respected and long-time political friend and associate, the Honourable Joseph Tasse, editor-in-chief of *La Minerve* newspaper and a member of the Senate of Canada. As our readers are aware, Mr. Tasse has been suffering for some time from a complication of disorders which during the past few weeks has threatened the most serious consequences. His death, therefore, does not occur unexpectedly, but the feeling with which the unfortunate event will everywhere be received, will be none the less deep and sorrowful. By his untimely removal—he was but 46—Canada loses an eloquent and devoted son, and the political party to which he belonged, a well equipped, courageous and devoted champion.

The late Mr. Tasse was essentially a man of action, of earnest work and endeavor; and his career, though short, is bright with the possibilities that lie within the reach of every young Canadian of equal merit and ambition. Commencing life a poor boy, he early qualified himself for newspaper work, and, ere long, attained a position in the editorial corps. As such he attracted the notice of the late Sir George Cartier, which led to his appointment as an assistant translator in the public service. Unlike the generality of men under similar conditions, this stroke of good fortune only spurred young Tasse on to further mental effort and exertion. He gave himself up anew to historical and constitutional studies for which he had a special taste and aptitude, and step, by step added to his store of knowledge and otherwise qualified himself for the distinguished public career that followed. While others slept, he read and worked; while others spent their leisure in idleness and self-indulgence, Tasse was qualifying himself, like Galt, Harrison, Baby and Patterson before him, for a seat in the highest tribunals and councils of the state. He was called to the Bar, and his services sought for in Parliament, but it was only in 1878, on the restoration of the Conservatives to power at Ottawa, that he was induced to accept of a nomination. In that year he stood for the National Capital in the House of Commons, and was re-

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turned along with the late Mr. Currier, the total vote recorded for the several candidates being as follows : J. M. Currier, 1,854 ; Joseph Tasse, 1,748 ; Dr. St. Jean, 1,353 ; C. W. Bangs, 1,239. Subsequently, he was elected to the Quebec Assembly, and, in February, 1891, was appointed by the Governor-General-in-Council to a seat in the Red Chamber. Had he been spared to his country, he would undoubtedly have been called, and that before long, to other and higher spheres of public usefulness. He is now gone, however, and while his fellow-citizens who are left behind cannot but regard with a feeling of pride the well-built structure of his life, they must always regret its unfinished condition. Mr. Tasse's death was the result of overwork—a fate which often overtakes men of his calling and profession among other brain-workers in the present day, and oh ! the pity of it. Modern appliances of rapid travel and of verbal communication have so stimulated the activity of men in every department of life that a pressure is put on the faculties of mind and body often beyond that which they can properly bear ; the physical mechanism gives way ; the silver cord is snapped before its time ; and the mourners go about the street. By his demise Canadian literature and journalism as well as politics suffer a very perceptible loss, for not since the days of Parent, of Morin, of Chauveau, Cauchon, Tache or Provencher has French Canada possessed a writer more industrious, better informed or with a more accurate and unerring judgment. As a political organizer, his loss will also be keenly felt by his party friends, he having been to the Conservatives in the district of Montreal and the Ottawa Valley all that Mercier was in his prime in this respect to the Liberals throughout the Province of Quebec. The departed Senator was always a pleasing and effective speaker, and never more so that when, as President of the Institut Canadien or of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, he was called upon at the banquet board to respond to some of the standard toasts. It is said that he owed his selection as a parliamentary candidate for Ottawa to an address delivered by him on one of these occasions. Sir Charles Tupper happened to be present, and so impressed was the veteran statesman with Mr. Tasse's style of oratory that he at once exclaimed : "*There's your man!*" The Conservative party in Ottawa were at the moment in quest of a French Canadian candidate, and found themselves suddenly relieved of the difficulty in the off-hand and pleasant manner described. Mr. Tasse could never be taken unawares when required to speak. He was always full of facts and always ready. It is to be further remarked, that the spirit and purpose he brought into his public addresses were always apparent and lent weight and dignity to what he had to say. At times, he could rise to flights of genuine elo-

quence, as, for instance, at the O'Connell demonstration in 1875; at the Conservative banquet given in this city on the occasion of Sir John Macdonald's restoration to power in 1878; at the workmen's notable gathering at the Opera House at a later period; and again, in the House of Commons, more particularly, in moving for the erection of a public monument to Sir George Carter, in supporting the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on the occasion of the sudden death of the universally lamented Holton. While filling the position of Canadian Commissioner at the World's Fair last year, he likewise acquitted himself creditably in replying to Mayor Carter Harrison, of Chicago, who had prophesied the annexation of Canada to the United States. On that occasion, Mr. Tasse well remarked, that not even if the American government were willing to expend its last dollar for such a purpose, could they succeed in obtaining one inch of Canadian territory. We were not, he said, a marketable commodity, the soil was sacred to us and intended for our children and those coming after them, and we intended to keep it for them, please God, to the tune of "No surrender." It is to his credit, too, that it can be said of him that he was always fair and courteous in his treatment of public questions and singularly devoid of national and religious antipathies, his constant efforts being directed towards the preservation of the *entente cordiale* between the two races in this Canada of ours. His celebrated letters to the *Toronto Mail*, in 1887, are proof of this. Mr. Tasse's *magnum opus* as a literary man was undoubtedly his "*Canadiens de l'Ouest*," published in 1878, which gave the utmost satisfaction to the French Canadian race and was well received by the public generally, in view of the many new facts it presented in recording the early achievements and discoveries of the French race in the western portion of *La Nouvelle France*. "*Le Trentehuitieme Fauteuil ou Souvenirs Parliementaires*," issued from the press in 1891, was also notable and acceptable. More recently, he had edited the Life and Speeches of the great Conservative leader, Sir George Etienne Cartier, and this, like his other works, reflected credit on his industry, taste and patriotism. All these publications and others were prepared in Ottawa; and it is here where he lived for so many years and was so familiar to us, where his wife and family continue to reside, where he married and where his children were born unto him, that his death will be the most severely felt. In proof of his popularity at the Capital, we have but to recall the banquet given to him at the Russell House on the 20th December, 1892, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of his entry into journalism, at which both Liberals and Conservatives united to do him honour, a prominent Liberal and

old-time opponent, Dr. St. Jean, presiding on the occasion. Although a native of Montreal, Mr. Tasse was educated at Rigaud College, on the banks of the Ottawa river, and he had ever for this section of the country and its people a feeling of genuine regard and attachment. He was one of the first to join in the movement looking to the opening up of the broad area of Temiscamingue, and had he lived until next session it was his intention to have moved in the Senate for the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire into the present feasibility of the Ottawa ship canal. As it is, we owe to him and the late Mr. Currier, not a few public benefactions, chief among which may be enumerated the new Drill Hall, the removal of the Geological Survey from Montreal to Ottawa, and the abolition of tolls on the Union Suspension Bridge. For these favours alone Joseph Tasse's memory, with that of his equally patriotic and respected colleague, who has predeceased him, should not soon be forgotten by their former townsmen.

As we have stated, the late Mr. Tasse married in Ottawa, his wife being a daughter of Mr. J. P. M. Lecourt, an old and respected member of the Civil Service. It was a true union of hearts and blessed with many proofs of their mutual affection. Only recently, their eldest daughter, Marie Eulalie Emma Tasse, a beautiful and accomplished girl, was married to the Vicomte George R. Q. Villemonde de Beaujeau, of Montreal, and in this way became allied with many families among the old French *noblesse*. We extend to the bereaved widow and children the expression of our deep sympathy and condolence.

Our lives are rivers, gliding free
To that unfathomed boundless sea,
The silent grave,
Thither all earthly pomp and boast
Roll to be swallowed up and lost
In one dark wave.

Thither the mighty torrents stray,
Thither the brook pursues its way
And tinkling rill.
There all are equal side by side
The poor man and the son of pride.
Lie calm and still.

HENRY J. MORGAN.

Sir Charles Tupper expresses his Regret.

Writing to Mr. Morgan, from London, 27th February, 1895, Sir Charles Tupper says he has read the above article with deep interest. The High Commissioner adds that Senator Tasse's death "will be universally regretted, and especially in the Senate which he was calculated to adorn."

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